The definite article 'the' in Standard Arabic is a bound morpheme, which, for reference purposes only, may be represented as /{ '7al}/ —. This bound morpheme has four allomorphs, the phonetic (and phonemic) forms of which are determined directly by their phonetic environment. And since no utterance in Standard Arabic can begin with a vowel (if no other consonant appears in utterance initial position, the glottal stop will appear there), the phonetic environment determining the phonetic (and phonemic) form of the definite article allomorph in initial position is always the particular consonant following it. In utterance medial position, however, the form of the allomorph, in addition, is characterized by the elimination of the glottal stop because of liaisoning.

In Standard Arabic, there are thirty consonants. See Table 1. Out of the thirty consonant phonemes, thirteen (namely, the bilabial, labio-dental, palatal, velar, uvular, pharyngeal, and glottal consonants) clearly take one of the

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Articulation</th>
<th>Bilabial</th>
<th>Labio-dental</th>
<th>Dental</th>
<th>Inter-dental</th>
<th>Alveolar</th>
<th>Velarized</th>
<th>Alveo-palatal</th>
<th>Palatal</th>
<th>Velar</th>
<th>Uvular</th>
<th>Pharyngeal</th>
<th>Glottal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stops</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>t</td>
<td>d</td>
<td>f</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>k</td>
<td>q</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>h</td>
<td>h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fricatives</td>
<td>v.</td>
<td>f</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>f</td>
<td>g</td>
<td>h</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>h</td>
<td>h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nasals</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>z</td>
<td>z</td>
<td>z</td>
<td>z</td>
<td>g</td>
<td>z</td>
<td>g</td>
<td>h</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>h</td>
<td>h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laterals</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>l</td>
<td>l</td>
<td>l</td>
<td>l</td>
<td>r</td>
<td>l</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>h</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>h</td>
<td>h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vibrants</td>
<td>r</td>
<td>r</td>
<td>r</td>
<td>r</td>
<td>r</td>
<td>r</td>
<td>r</td>
<td>r</td>
<td>h</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>h</td>
<td>h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-vowels</td>
<td>w</td>
<td>w</td>
<td>w</td>
<td>w</td>
<td>w</td>
<td>w</td>
<td>w</td>
<td>w</td>
<td>h</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>h</td>
<td>h</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See Table 1.
TABLE 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consonant</th>
<th>Initial Position</th>
<th>Medial Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/b/</td>
<td>[Palbaab] 'the door'</td>
<td>/mina-lbaab/ 'from the door'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/m/</td>
<td>[Dalmaan] 'the water'</td>
<td>/salaam/lbaab/ 'in the water'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/f/</td>
<td>[Fallada] 'the individual'</td>
<td>/mina-lbaddara/ 'from the individual'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/j/</td>
<td>[Jalwara] 'the day'</td>
<td>/halaalakar/ 'that day'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/g/</td>
<td>[Galarib] 'the bag'</td>
<td>/halaakar/ 'this bag'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/s/</td>
<td>[Sawaraq] 'the shepherd'</td>
<td>/halaakar/ 'the shepherd's wool'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/d/</td>
<td>[Dalward] 'the individual'</td>
<td>/mina-lfard/ 'from the individual'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/r/</td>
<td>[Ruwmaa] 'the law'</td>
<td>/lqamesh/ 'in the law'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/l/</td>
<td>[Lalmaa] 'the whale'</td>
<td>/lqamesh/ 'the whale's eye'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/y/</td>
<td>[Lalyawm] 'the day'</td>
<td>/laa-alika-laywam/ 'that day'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/k/</td>
<td>[Lakiis] 'the bag'</td>
<td>/halaakar/ 'this bag'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/x/</td>
<td>[Alxaruuf] 'the sheep'</td>
<td>/al-xaruuf/ 'the sheep'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/z/</td>
<td>[Zalmaa] 'the stranger'</td>
<td>/halaakar/ 'that stranger'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/n/</td>
<td>[Nannaas] 'the people'</td>
<td>/halaakar/ 'the people's love'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/l/</td>
<td>[Lamaa] 'the night'</td>
<td>/halaakar/ 'in the night'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/q/</td>
<td>[Qinnaa] 'the tribes'</td>
<td>/halaakar/ 'the tribes'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/h/</td>
<td>[Hawlaa] 'the thief'</td>
<td>/halaakar/ 'the thief'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Following allomorphic forms of the definite article: /{Ì}/ — in utterance initial position or — /{Ì}/ — in utterance medial position. Thus, see Table 2.

It is noteworthy that the /Ì/ of the definite article is pronounced with the consonants that are less contiguous to the /Ì/ itself in point of articulation.

With sixteen consonants (namely, the dental, inter-dental, alveolar, velarized, and one of the alveo-palatal sounds), the definite article is assimilated and takes one of the following allomorphic forms: /{Ì}/ — in utterance initial position or — /{Ì}/ — in utterance medial position. Thus, see Table 3.

TABLE 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consonant</th>
<th>Initial Position</th>
<th>Medial Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>t</td>
<td>[Pataa] 'the crown'</td>
<td>/hala-taaxl/ 'on the crown'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>[Daddar] 'the lesson'</td>
<td>/hala-taaxl/ 'the lesson'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o</td>
<td>[Ououd] 'the third'</td>
<td>/hala-taaxl/ 'this third'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ð</td>
<td>[Dress] 'the sky'</td>
<td>/hala-taaxl/ 'in the sky'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>z</td>
<td>[Zahara] 'the flowers'</td>
<td>/hala-taaxl/ 'the flowers'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s</td>
<td>[Samaa] 'the people'</td>
<td>/hala-taaxl/ 'from the people'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>[Aalay] 'the night'</td>
<td>/hala-taaxl/ 'in the night'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t</td>
<td>[Tala] 'the sun'</td>
<td>/hala-taaxl/ 'the sun said'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ð</td>
<td>[Dara] 'the bird'</td>
<td>/hala-taaxl/ 'this bird'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>[Dara] 'the village'</td>
<td>/hala-taaxl/ 'the village'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s</td>
<td>[Samaa] 'the hunter'</td>
<td>/hala-taaxl/ 'the hunter'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ð</td>
<td>[Dadnaam] 'the darkness'</td>
<td>/hala-taaxl/ 'the darkness'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l</td>
<td>[Lama] 'the thief'</td>
<td>/hala-taaxl/ 'from the thief'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ð</td>
<td>[Dar] 'the dance'</td>
<td>/hala-taaxl/ 'this dance'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s</td>
<td>[Dalaam] 'the sun'</td>
<td>/hala-taaxl/ 'in the sun'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is noteworthy that the /Ì/ of the definite article is assimilated with the consonants that are more contiguous to the /Ì/ itself in point of articulation.

This leaves one consonant (namely, /J/) which, according to the above analysis, should fall with the second (assimilated) group. Actually, this is how native speakers tend to pronounce the definite article with /Ì/: [Palahmaa] 'the camel'; [Salmaa] 'on the camel'. However, Arabic teachers and authors of grammar books have for years insisted on including /Ì/ with the first group. More research is needed to determine the historical reasons for this insistence.

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Le Ì est un ancien d'Ì < g' donc autrefois avec les consonnes de la première catégorie.

NASSR

This could explain the exception from a historical point of view.